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REMARKS

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 25-28, 30-32, 34-48, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

This rejection is traversed.

It appears this rejection is based on the use of the word "about". Claim 25 has been amended to recite "less than or equal to 9."

Based upon the amendment to claim 25, it is submitted the claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent claim 25 is directed to a solid detergent composition. The solid detergent composition of independent claim 25 is characterized as including about (1) 1 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of an anionic surfactant which includes alkyl benzene sulfonate, (2) an effective neutralizing amount of at least one of alkali metal salt, alkaline metal earth salt, and mixtures thereof, (3) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, (4) about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate, and (5) a hardening amount of polyethylene glycol.

Menke et al.

Claims 25-28, 30, 31, 38-46, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Menke et al.* (US 5,759,974). This rejection is traversed.

Menke et al. disclose block form cleaners for flush toilets which "consist of" at least two masses of different composition. See Abstract.

Menke et al. fail to provide adequate guidance and motivation to a solid detergent composition including (1) about 1 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of an anionic surfactant that includes alkyl benzene sulfonate, (2) an effective neutralizing amount of at least one of alkali metal salt, alkaline metal earth salt, and mixtures thereof, (3) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl

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polyglycoside surfactant, (4) about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate, and (5) a hardening amount of polyethylene glycol of the present invention.

Furthermore, *Menke et al.* fail to teach or suggest all claim limitations. Although *Menke et al.* disclose a surfactant weight range, *Menke et al.* fail to suggest or provide any motivation of weight ranges for an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant and an alcohol alkoxylate. Therefore, *Menke et al.* fail to teach or suggest a solid detergent composition including about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, and about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate of the present invention.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, it is respectfully submitted that *Menke et al.* fail to render the present invention obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Herbots et al.

Claims 25-28, 30, 31, 38-46, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Herbots et al.* (WO 99/02638). This rejection is traversed.

Herbots et al. are directed to detergent compositions.

Herbots et al. however fail to provide adequate guidance and motivation to a solid detergent composition including (1) about 1 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of an anionic surfactant that includes alkyl benzene sulfonate, (2) an effective neutralizing amount of at least one of alkali metal salt, alkaline metal earth salt, and mixtures thereof, (3) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, (4) about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate, and (5) a hardening amount of polyethylene glycol of the present invention.

Furthermore, *Herbots et al.* fail to teach or suggest all claim limitations. Although *Herbots et al.* disclose a surfactant system weight range, *Herbots et al.* fail to suggest or provide any motivation of weight ranges for an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant and an alcohol alkoxylate. Therefore, *Herbots et al.* fail to teach or suggest a solid detergent composition including about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, and about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate of the present invention.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, it is respectfully submitted that *Herbots et al.* fail to render the present invention obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Menke et al. or Herbots et al. in view of Knott et al. or Rolando et al.

Claims 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Menke et al.* or *Herbots et al.*, as applied to the rejected claims above, and further in view of *Knott et al.* (US 6,303,566). This rejection is traversed.

Claims 34-37 depend from independent claim 25. For at least the reasons discussed above for independent claim 25, *Menke et al.* and *Herbots et al.* fail to teach or suggest a solid detergent composition including (1) about 1 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of an anionic surfactant including alkyl benzene sulfonate, (2) an effective neutralizing amount of at least one of alkali metal salt, alkaline metal earth salt, and mixtures thereof, (3) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, (4) about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate, and (5) a hardening amount of polyethylene glycol of the present invention.

Moreover, *Knott et al.* fail to remedy the shortcomings of *Menke et al.* and *Herbots et al.* Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, Applicants respectfully submit that *Menke et al.*, *Herbots et al.*, and *Knott et al.*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Menke et al. or Herbots et al. in view of Rolando et al.

Claims 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Menke et al.* or *Herbots et al.*, as applied to the rejected claims above, and further in view of *Rolando et al.* (US 5,876,514). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 32 depends from independent claim 25. For at least the reasons discussed above for independent claim 25, *Menke et al.* and *Herbots et al.* fail to teach or suggest a solid detergent composition including (1) about 1 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of an anionic surfactant including alkyl benzene sulfonate, (2) an effective neutralizing amount of at least one of alkali metal salt, alkaline metal earth salt, and mixtures thereof, (3) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of an alkyl polyglycoside surfactant, (4) about 1 wt.% to about 30 wt.% of an alcohol alkoxylate, and (5) a hardening amount of polyethylene glycol of the present invention.

Moreover, *Rolando et al.* fail to remedy the shortcomings of *Menke et al.* and *Herbots et al.* Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, Applicants respectfully submit that *Menke et al.*, *Herbots et al.*, and *Rolando et al.*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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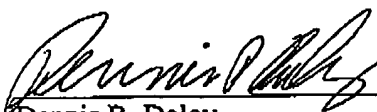
Conclusion

In summary, Applicant submits that each of claims 25-28, 30-32, 34-37, 39-40, 42, 44-48 and 50 is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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